

Appln No. 10/760,243
Amdt. Dated July 11, 2006
Response to Office Action of May 18, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of May 18, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the following Remarks.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 3 and 5-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by previously cited Silverbrook, for at least the following reasons.

In the rejection text and the Response to Arguments section of the final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Silverbrook discloses the following features of pending independent claim 1:

- (a) "at least two printhead modules (figure 15, element 10)";
- (b) "a casing in which the at least two printhead modules are removably mounted (figure 2, elements 14, 32, 64, lower 76, and 94)";
- (c) "at least one fluid connector is provided to connect at least one printing fluid delivery hose (figure 12, element 78)...from a printing supply to the at[sic] least one channel of the support member"; and
- (d) "each module (figure 2, element 12[sic]) has a chip (figure 2, element 18)".

It is unclear from these assertions which element of Silverbrook the Examiner considers to correspond with the "at least two printhead modules" of the claimed invention. That is, "element 10" from point (a) above, is an assembly which mounts a plurality of the "element 12" from point (b) above, where "element 12" is a printhead module (see col. 1, line 66-col. 2, line 5 and Fig. 2 of Silverbrook). Having said this, even if either "element 10" or "element 12" is considered to correspond to a "printhead module", neither of these elements corresponds to the printhead modules of the claimed invention for at least the following reasons.

Regarding "element 12", Silverbrook does not disclose or suggest arranging each printhead module 12 with "support members supporting the at least two printhead integrated circuits" where "each support member has at least one longitudinally extending channel for carrying the printing fluid for the printhead integrated circuits which is configured to

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communicate said printing fluid with the channel of the adjacent support member", as is required by pending independent claim 1.

This is because, Silverbrook discloses at col. 2, lines 2-34 and illustrates in Fig. 3 that ink is supplied separately to each printhead module 12 from a common ink reservoir 16 via the support molding 26,28 of each printhead module 12. Thus, neither the support moldings nor the ink reservoir of Silverbrook correspond to the "support members" of the claimed invention because the support moldings do not communicate ink to one another and the ink reservoir is not separately part of each printhead module 12.

Regarding "element 10", Silverbrook does not disclose or suggest arranging the assemblies 10 with support members having "at least one longitudinally extending channel for carrying the printing fluid for the printhead integrated circuits which is configured to communicate said printing fluid with the channel of the adjacent support member" and at least one fluid connector "to connect at least one printing fluid delivery hose from a printing fluid supply to the at least one channel of the support member mounted at one longitudinal end of one of the printhead modules", as is required by pending independent claim 1, which means that printing fluid need only be supplied to one of the printhead modules since this printing fluid supply is communicated to the other printhead module(s) via the adjacent support members.

This is because, Silverbrook discloses at col. 7, line 5-col. 8, line 5 and illustrates in Fig. 15 that ink is supplied separately to each assembly 10 from a common intermediate ink reservoir 116 through hoses 118 and via the ink inlet pipes 78 and ink reservoir 16 of each assembly 10. Thus, neither the ink reservoir 16 nor the intermediate ink reservoir 116 of Silverbrook correspond to the "support members" and "at least one fluid connector" of the claimed invention because the ink reservoirs 16 of the separate assemblies 10 do not communicate ink to one another and the intermediate ink reservoir 116 is not separately part of each assembly 10.

Thus, there is no consideration of the disclosure of Silverbrook which discloses or suggests the printhead modules or ink supply and communication arrangement of the claimed invention. Thus, the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Silverbrook.

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Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook in view of previously cited Lu, because similar to Silverbrook, Lu does not teach or suggest the printhead modules or ink supply and communication arrangement of the claimed invention.

Thus, the subject matter of pending independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook either taken alone or in combination with Lu.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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